


REMARKS

Applicants' attorney is appreciative of the telephone interview granted by the Examiner on October 24, 2005. During that interview, the Examiner stated that claims including the recitations of claims 1, 3 and 5 regarding the refractory particulate material would be considered to be allowable. The Examiner further requested that the claims be amended to clarify that the recited open porosity related to the grains and not to the filter bed.

The requested amendments have now been made to claims 1 and 9; claims 3 and 5 have been canceled. Withdrawal of all rejections of record is requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that the present application is now in condition for allowance. An early allowance of the application with amended claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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